

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device of claim 21 further comprising an elongated centralized vertical extension, said centralized vertical extension comprising a horizontal axis, and a left and a right lateral extension along said horizontal axis.

2. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1, wherein said left and right lateral extensions comprise an inside edge, an outside edge, an upper surface and a lower surface, wherein said inside edge joins said centralized vertical extension to form a substantially horizontal plane.

3. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said upper surface forms an angle of about 0 to 60 degrees below said substantially horizontal plane.

4. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein the length of said inside edge is less than the length of said outside edge.

5. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said inside edge has a greater thickness than said outside edge.

6. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, wherein said upper surface is barbed.

7. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 2, further comprising a recess wherein said upper surface joins said centralized vertical extension.

8. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 21, further comprising a flexible bladder.

9. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 8, wherein said flexible bladder comprises a material enclosing an internal cavity.

10. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 9, wherein said internal cavity is empty.

11. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9, wherein said material comprises a thin flexible biocompatible material.

12. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9, wherein said material further comprises a semi-permeable material.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to ~~claim 13~~ claim 16, wherein said biocompatible fluid is a hydrogel.

15. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9, wherein said material further comprises an impermeable material.

16. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 9, wherein said internal cavity contains a biocompatible fluid.

17. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 1, wherein said centralized vertical extension ~~is of a shape selected from the group consisting of~~ has a trapezoid trapezoidal, circular ~~and~~ or curved shape.

18. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim [[1]] 21, wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device is made from a material selected from the group consisting of a biocompatible material, a bioactive material, and a bioresorbable material.

19. (Currently amended) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim [[18]] 21, wherein said therapeutic or prophylactic device comprises a biocompatible fiber mesh.

20. (Previously presented) The therapeutic or prophylactic device according to claim 21, wherein said therapeutic device comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE); a material to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue; and a hygroscopic material.

21. (Currently amended) [[The]] A therapeutic or prophylactic device for treating a spinal disc annulus having an aperture, the device comprising a biocompatible material for placement in and across the aperture such that said material forms a bridge providing a platform for a traverse of fibroblasts or other normal cells of repair ~~existing~~ existing in and around the various layers of the disc annulus.